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Country cooperation frameworks and related matters

Extension of the first country cooperation framework for Libya

Note by the Administrator

1. The first country cooperation framework (CCF) for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was approved by the Executive Board at its first regular session 1998 for three years, from 1 January 1998 to 31 December 2000.

2. The objectives of the CCF to promote human-resource development, capacity-building and support for economic diversification are still in line with the broad development objectives of the country. The economic constraints that the country faced, especially in 1998 and 1999, did not allow for the full implementation of the CCF and significantly limited the approval of new, important projects. The situation of the country improved in 1999 with the suspension of United Nations sanctions (in force since 1992), the increase of oil prices and the reduction of the fiscal deficit. In March 1999, the structural reorganization of the Government redirected most executive functions by decentralizing responsibilities to the governorates. In the short term, this will not facilitate the execution of the CCF. The 2001-2005 plan of the Higher Planning Council will be finalized in the course of 2000; the new plan will certainly affect the content of the next CCF.

3. The programme had a late start and, for the above-mentioned reasons, did not achieve the level of resource mobilization outlined in the CCF. It did however obtain some important resources in 1999 and 2000. New projects for $22 million have in fact been approved and activities have started. In the area of human-resource development, a $10 million project approved in 1999 will serve to reform the educational and vocational systems at the secondary levels. It has already helped revise existing curricula and create new ones and has begun textbook production. The project, Upgrading of the Meteorological Services of Libya, recently approved for a total of $7 million will strengthen the capabilities of the Libyan Meteorological Department, mainly by upgrading the skills of its staff. In the area of economic diversification, a series of inter-linking projects have been approved and are currently being implemented in the tourism sector. One project has carried out badly

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needed restoration works for the conservation of Ghadames, one of the oldest pre-Saharan cities and an outstanding example of a traditional settlement. The city is important in the cultural heritage of the country and has been on the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) since 1988. The programme has also completed the first national human development report whose production and series of round tables on key themes during 1999 has promoted public awareness and policy dialogue on sustainable human development issues.

4. The extension of the CCF through December 2001 will provide sufficient lead time for a comprehensive review of the programme, so that the lessons learned and results attained can be taken into account in the preparation of the next CCF.

5. The Administrator wishes to inform the Executive Board that he has approved the extension of the first country cooperation framework for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for a period of one year, from 1 January to 31 December 2001.